

To: Carey, Curtis[Carey.Curtis@epa.gov]; Smith, Mark A.[Smith.Marka@epa.gov]
From: Jay, Michael
Sent: Fri 7/1/2016 6:13:03 PM
Subject: RE: Sierra Club release regarding SO2 designation in Franklin County, MO attached

Well that was quick, thanks

Mike Jay

Branch Chief

Air Planning and Development Branch

USEPA R7

913-551-7460

From: Carey, Curtis
Sent: Friday, July 01, 2016 12:54 PM
To: Jay, Michael <Jay.Michael@epa.gov>; Smith, Mark A. <Smith.Marka@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Sierra Club release regarding SO2 designation in Franklin County, MO attached

FYSA

From: Bryan, David
Sent: Friday, July 01, 2016 12:23 PM
To: R7 Senior Staff <R7_Senior_Staff@epa.gov>
Subject: Sierra Club release regarding SO2 designation in Franklin County, MO attached

FYI

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2016/07/epa-decision-fails-address->

dangerous-so2-pollution-st-charles-franklin

EPA DECISION FAILS TO ADDRESS DANGEROUS SO2 POLLUTION IN ST. CHARLES, FRANKLIN COUNTIES

Advocacy Groups, Residents, Business Owners, Express Disappointment,
Concern about Ameren's Labadie Coal Plant

Friday, July 1, 2016

Contact: Renner Barsella, Renner.Barsella@sierraclub.org, 312-251-1680 x120, c 217-390-9394

LABADIE, Mo. - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) failed to take steps toward protecting air quality, instead designating parts of St. Charles and Franklin Counties as having an "unclassifiable" sulfur dioxide (SO₂) pollution status. The main source of SO₂ pollution is coal-fired power plants. Ameren operates three coal-fired power plants without modern pollution controls in the St. Louis metro area, including Ameren's Labadie coal-fired power plant in Franklin County. Pollution controls, which have been available for decades, could reduce the Labadie plant's SO₂ emissions by as much as 98 percent, yet the Labadie plant has installed no modern SO₂ controls--making it the largest plant in the nation without appropriate pollution controls. A report by the Environmental Integrity Project concluded that Ameren's Labadie plant accounts for more premature deaths than any other coal-fired plant in the United States that similarly did not have plans to install or upgrade scrubbers as of 2012. EPA's decision comes as a shock to many local residents, business owners, and activists.

"I have two children that I worry about, knowing the impacts of air pollution on their health. They have grown up breathing that air almost every day of their lives at our house and at school," said Christine Alt a resident living in the area. "I just want them to live a good, safe life, like any parent, but I cannot protect them from the air they breathe."

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) had previously tried to give Ameren a free pass by recommending to the EPA that the area around the Labadie plant be designated as “unclassifiable.” In February, EPA notified Missouri that it intended to designate the area as failing to meet the health standard for SO₂. However, with today’s announced designation, the EPA has failed to correct DNR’s mistake, and the process of reducing the dangerous levels of pollution in the area will be stalled as the DNR submits more data to the EPA. Now the attention focuses on the monitors that Ameren has installed near the Labadie plant. Contrary to EPA requirements, the monitors are not placed in areas of maximum sulfur dioxide pollution. Ameren should not be able to use data from its poorly located monitors to avoid installing modern pollution controls that would help protect public health. Advocacy groups are expressing disappointment.

“By following the DNR’s proposal, EPA rejected the science and is endangering the health of the people that live in and visit the area,” said Andy Knott, Senior Campaign Representative with the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal campaign in Missouri. “It is disturbing to see that the very agency tasked with protecting our communities from dangerous levels of pollution has failed to do just that.”

Children and elderly adults with asthma are particularly at risk for adverse health effects from short-term sulfur dioxide pollution exposure.

William Kincaid MD, MPH, former Director of Health and Hospitals, City of Saint Louis, said, “Even with as little as five minutes of exposure, sulfur dioxide pollution can seriously impair lung function, cause asthma attacks, and aggravate respiratory & cardiovascular diseases. The EPA and Missouri Department of Natural Resources must realize that this isn’t just about the environment, it’s a personal health threat and a fixable public health issue.”

The area surrounding the Labadie plant is home to several recreation areas including the popular Katy Trail and nearby Augusta wineries.

“Our organization brings people to the rivers through restoration projects as well as biking, canoeing and kayaking programs. It is vitally important to us to find ways to work together to improve the quality of our air and water. We are disappointed the EPA has

failed to take steps toward a safer and healthier environment," said Charlene Waggoner, President of Greenways Network, which organizes many outdoor events and activities in the area.